

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 18, 26 and 27 as shown in the attached Appendix. Please add new Claims 31 to 33 as shown below. All Claims currently pending in the application, including those not amended, are reproduced below. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Five Times Amended) In an information input device, the combination of:

first input means for inputting first information;

second input means different from said first input means for communicating with an external device and inputting secret key information;

generating means for generating a digital signature based upon said first information and said secret key information; and

outputting means for outputting said first information containing said digital signature.

outputting means for outputting said first information containing said digital signature.

2. (Not Changed From Prior Version) An information input device according to claim 1, wherein said information is image data.

4. (Amended) An information input device according to Claim 1 , wherein said generating means generates said digital signature by using public key cryptography.

5. (Amended) An information input device according to Claim 1, wherein said generating means generates said digital signature by using RSA cryptosystem.

6. (Five Times Amended) An information input device according to Claim 1, wherein said first input means compresses said first information.

18. (Amended) An information input device according to Claim 6, further having a CODEC.

19. (Not Changed From Prior Version) An image input system according to claim 18, wherein said compression algorithm is based on MPEG standard.

20. (Not Changed From Prior Version) An image input system according to claim 18, wherein said compression algorithm is based upon JPEG standard.

26. (Five Times Amended) An information input method comprising:
inputting first information from first input means;
communicating with an external device and inputting secret key information from second input means different from said first input means;
generating a digital signature based upon said first information and said secret key information; and
outputting said first information containing said digital signature.

27. (Five Times Amended) A computer readable memory programmed to cooperate with a data processor and an information input unit to carry out:

a step of inputting first information from first input means;

a step of communicating with an external device and inputting secret key information from second input means different from said first input means;

a step of generating a digital signature based upon said first information and said secret key information; and

a step of outputting said first information containing said digital signature.

31. (New) An information input device according to Claim 1, said second input means for inputting software used by said generating means.

32. (New) An information input device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

means for encrypting said first information based upon said secret key information.

33. (New) An information input device according to Claim 1, wherein said external device is a portable device.